

Approved For Release 2008/08/15 : CIA-RDP80-00810A006200280006-0

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 22 March 1955

SUBJECT Dahlem Working for Rehabilitation

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [] it was learned at the East German "Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte" (Institute for Contemporary History) that Franz Dahlem, ex-cadre chief of the SED Politbüro, hopes to be rehabilitated after the Field brothers have been released from prison. Dahlem is said to have discussed his case with Major Gussev, Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Berlin. He does not want to return to the SED Central Committee as long as Ulbricht continues to be its first man but expects to play a leading role in the organization of the East German national army.
2. Dahlem is, allegedly, still held in high esteem by the Soviets. He was the only man to predict the fiasco of the SED in the West Berlin elections and to suggest in a memorandum drawn up for Pushkin the reorganization of the West German KPD and the removal of Reimann as its chief. Dahlem stated that Reimann would have been relieved of his office if the Soviets were not adverse to changing the KPD leadership pending the outcome of the trial before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.
3. Willy Kreikemeyer, formerly President of the Reichsbahn and ex-Secretary of State Bender are to be rehabilitated side by side with leading German Communists including Dahlem. Ulbricht is, however, said to oppose this trend. Dahlem appeared to be rather optimistic regarding the inner-political development in the GDR. According to him, Grotewohl, Rau, and Stoph are interested in Ulbricht's overthrow, and Wilhelm Zaisser was active in Moscow in bringing about this result. Ulbricht was blamed for having prevented the formation of a real "National Front" in East Germany by his narrow-minded radicalism, which, moreover, evoked very little sympathy in West Germany. Dahlem also holds the view that important government posts should not be filled with incompetent SED members but with capable experts even though they happen to belong to bourgeois parties. In this connection he pointed out Lenin's procedure in the USSR. He mentioned that Ulbricht would not continue for long as chief of the SED and that he would have to disappear prior to the holding of all-German elections.

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Dahlem also complained that the GDR Government had not insisted firmly enough on its right of sovereignty. Thus, for example, the Soviet consulates in the GDR still issued visas for foreigners entering or travelling through the territory of the GDR. The Soviets had not claimed this privilege, but Ulbricht and Wollweber, who lived in constant fear of saboteurs and enemy agents, had asked the Soviets to continue to exercise the control of foreigners entering Germany.

[REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] indications of Dahlem's imminent rehabilitation. It may be expected that the developments in the Field affair will also lead to the reinstatement of some former SED leaders who fell into disgrace. It appears correct that the Soviets are unwilling to discard Ulbricht for the time being in view of the present international situation.

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